

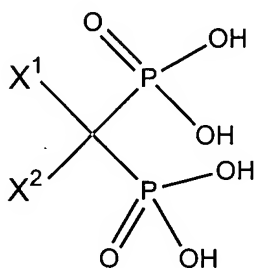
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 11. Canceled

12. (Original) A salt of substituted or unsubstituted methylene bisphosphonic acid of formula I



(I)

wherein X¹ and X² are independently hydrogen or halogen.

13. (Original) A salt as claimed in claim 12 wherein X¹ and X² are both hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine or bromine.

14. (Original) A salt as claimed in claim 13 wherein X¹ and X² are both chlorine.

15. (Original) A salt as claimed in claim 12 wherein one of X¹ and X² is hydrogen and one is chlorine.

16.(Currently amended) A salt as claimed in ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12 wherein the salt is a C₁₋₆ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkyl amine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, a basic N-containing heterocycle salt, or an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

17.(Currently amended) A salt as claimed in claim 16 wherein the salt is a C₁₋₄ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkylamine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, a basic N-containing heterocycle salt or an alkali metal salt ~~such as sodium or potassium salt,~~

18. (Original) A salt as claimed in claim 17 wherein the salt is a triethylamine, tri-n-propylamine, diisopropylethylamine, tri-n-butylamine, pyridine, tribenzylamine or sodium salt.

19. Canceled

20.(New) A salt as claimed claim 13 wherein the salt is a C₁₋₆ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkyl amine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, a basic N-containing heterocycle salt, or an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

21.(New) A salt as claimed claim 14 wherein the salt is a C₁₋₆ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkyl amine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, a basic N-containing heterocycle salt, or an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

22.(New) A salt as claimed claim 15 wherein the salt is a C₁₋₆ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkyl amine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, a basic N-containing heterocycle salt, or an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

23.(New) A salt as claimed in claim 17 wherein the alkali metal salt is sodium or potassium salt.